CHAPTER V

TRIMMINGS

THE inclination of all amateurs is to overload a hat with trimmings, which is not in good taste and necessarily adds to the cost. The simpler the design the better, but this must be complete in itself. In purchasing feathers or wings it is well to remember that a good ostrich plume or tips will wear many years, while cheap ones will hardly pay for cleaning or redressing. Good firm-made wings will with care easily last two seasons, while cheap ones are very likely to be blown to pieces in a good stiff wind. The natural wings from domestic fowl, cleaned and dressed, are far stronger than the artificially made wings. A good many domestic fowl, including turkeys, ducks, guinea fowl, and pigeons, have beautiful plumage, which, properly preserved and cured, makes handsome hat trimmings.

When the hat is made and the trimming de-
cided on, the effect of the principal piece, such as feather, wing, cluster of flowers, etc., should be studied with the hat on the head, before a mirror, and with a hand mirror, so that back and side views may be judged of, because one often finds a trimming becoming in a face view, when from the side or back it will give a quite impossible line.

Trimming is that part of millinery which cannot be taught; it must be studied by each one for herself; and the results will show if she has good taste and a good eye for effect.

FEATHERS, WINGS, ETC.

Use large, bead-headed pins to secure feathers when posing them, and sew with very strong thread at the shank; where the feather or tip droops over, it must be anchored to brim or crown by a long or short loop of thread passed between the two or three quills or stems of which the feather is made (one rarely finds a plume nowadays that is only one single feather); these long loops are simply tied in a tight knot and cut off.

In sewing on wings, the stitches must also be strong, as few as possible, and these neatly hid-
den under the upper feathers; enough must be put in to prevent the wing from wabbling.

Birds, breasts, or other flat pieces, as a rule, are mounted on lining or net foundations, and are easily sewn on by these. They form suitable trimmings for autumn and winter hats, either to form entire brims on turbans, or shorter pieces set along the sides of hats with turned-up brims. The natural breasts wear well, the artificial ones are made by gluing the feathers on foundations, and rain, wind, or sun soon detaches them. The real breast may be preserved by curing the skin with arsenic, and stretching it, feathers down, on a board to dry out. After that the entire pelt may be cleaned in gasoline to remove the animal oils and odor.

FLOWERS

The next thing of importance used in trimming is artificial flowers. These are just as varied in kind as the real ones, and also in price. It is wonderful what pretty blossoms and foliage are to be bought for a very small sum; and they will last a season and often more. The high-priced flowers will last years.

Small, simple flowers are best on the hats of children and young girls; if roses are used they
should be small, and buds rather than full blown. Some flowers, like pansies, heliotrope, violets, mignonette, and many more that will easily suggest themselves, are "older" flowers, more suitable for those in advanced years, though a bouquet of roses, heliotrope, mignonette, forget-me-nots, and foliage is a very pretty trimming for a young girl's white hat. Apple and cherry blossoms make lovely wreaths on young girls' hats, and the small pink or white hawthorn blossoms are suitable for any age. This is so very much a matter of taste that one cannot dictate, only again to say, Do not overload.

Sew flowers in place with a few strong stitches; if possible, sew in one place, cut off, and sew again in another place; this is better than carrying the thread along.

If trimming a sheer hat, either lace, straw, or shirred sheer material, put a piece of buckram or folded muslin inside the crown under where you sew the trimmings, as a support; indeed, it is often advisable to sew a bunch of feathers to a little foundation and sew this to the hat, with the support inside, as otherwise the trimming would pull through the texture of the hat.
RIBBONS

Ribbon is, of course, the chief of all garnitures; it is used winter and summer, together with feathers, wings, or flowers, or by itself makes a handsome and useful trimming. Since the large stores have taken to making up bows from the ribbons purchased at their counters, "free of charge," the home milliner has had her work greatly simplified, but many cannot avail themselves of this "get-there-quick" arrangement, and to these we will impart a few simple ideas in ribbon work.

Begin by tying a simple cravat bow (use cheap cambric to practice on, cutting it in strips like ribbon); pinch the ribbon between finger and thumb of right hand, leaving an end of two or three inches, or more if the ribbon is wide and the bow is to be large; now with the left hand lay a loop the other way, opposite to the end, then a loop the same way as the end; now tie the ribbon in a knot around the "waist" of the bow, bringing the end out on the side opposite the first end; pull tight and cut off in a slant. If you do not turn and tie the knot in the right way, your bow will fall to pieces instead of being made firm by the tie.
(Fig. 34). Do this till you can do it well: then proceed to lay more loops to each side finishing with the tie-over, till you can make a bow of three or even five yards of ribbon without cutting.

In the larger bows, however, it is best to twist strong thread or fine wire round each two loops as the work proceeds, as it is a bit difficult to hold so much ribbon between finger and thumb, and a slip will let the entire work down. (See Fig. 35.)

Pretty rosettes are made in this way by omitting the tie-over, just twisting the waist tightly with thread or wire, and pulling the loops into a
round form; sew this on the hat from underneath. (See Fig. 36.)

Fig. 37 shows a very useful bow made in just the same way by laying the loops back and forth,

Fig. 36.—Rosette of Two Yards of Ribbon.

Fig. 37.—Bow for Side of Hat, Two and a Half Yards or More, of Ribbon.

but they are laid long one side of the waist and short on the other; that is all, and a little practice will insure success. Wire loops are laid in long loops to support them, secured with a few tie stitches. (See Fig. 38.)

Narrow ribbons for children's hats, if made into rosettes, should be sewn on a foundation,
a loop at a time. (See Fig. 39.) But ribbons from one to three inches wide are handled the same as described before.

Fig. 38.—Method of Laying Wire in Loops.

Fig. 39.—Rosette of Narrow Ribbon on Foundation.

DRAPING

To drape materials on a frame is really a work of art that only clever fingers can accomplish, and the only way to find out if you can "drape" is to try. Take a frame and a piece of old velvet or silk (with the creases steamed out), or if you have not this, use Canton flannel or any soft stuff that will readily drop into folds. Play with this in a
half careless way, dropping it in folds on the frame, no hard lines or thin plaits; a few rich folds are best; try the crown of a hat or toque, try a scarf of soft silk around a felt or straw "walking" or sailor shape, with a big bow tied in with a rich, loose knot; if you can achieve this you will do very well. (See Fig. 40. Top of toque draped with velvet.)

![Figure 40](image1.png)

**Fig. 40.—Draped Crown of Toque.**

![Figure 41](image2.png)

**Fig. 41.—Turban with Draped Crown.**

Look at and study any good hats you can see, and copy them in practice materials when you get home; that is the best way to learn. (Fig. 41.)